CANADA: April was a wet month for the bulk of Canada's agricultural areas, particularly in the Prairies. Large portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan recorded twice their normal precipitation this month, as did south-central British Columbia and southwestern Manitoba. The moisture caused drought to diminish across the northern Prairies, resulting in D3 to D2 drought in the northern crop areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan improving to D0 to D1 levels. The large area of D0 dryness seen the previous month in British Columbia diminished to scattered small areas of D0 this month. With the recent precipitation, cumulative totals since September improved to normal to above normal over most of the Prairies. In contrast, normal to below-normal precipitation in extreme southern Manitoba and southwestern Ontario near the U.S. border allowed abnormal dryness (D0) to persist. In the east, precipitation totals ranging from 60 to 85 percent of normal in April allowed D0 dryness to expand into southeastern Ontario from around Ottawa to Toronto. Abnormal dryness persisted elsewhere in southeastern Ontario and southern Quebec as April precipitation was not enough to offset earlier dryness, and cumulative September-April precipitation totaled 60 to 85 percent of normal.

UNITED STATES: A 3 to 4 year drought has produced record precipitation deficits across parts of the western U.S., lowering river levels and leaving reservoirs low. D2 to D4 exists across much of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona and northern New Mexico. However, an enormous winter storm during late March and a wet April have resulted in significant increases in snow pack and short term moisture across portions of Colorado and Wyoming. Despite this Colorado reservoir storage was at 37% of capacity by the end of April, compared to normal which is 61%. At the same time, Wyoming reservoir storage was at 42% of capacity, compared to a normal storage of 66%. New Mexico reservoir storage and normal for the end of April were 24 and 53 percent of capacity, respectively, while Utah reservoir storage and normal for the end of April were 48 and 81 percent of capacity, respectively. Further east, April was a wet month across Kansas and western Nebraska, helping to reduce long term deficits. However, D2-D# still exists across much of Nebraska. A drier than normal winter across the western Corn Belt, eastern parts of the Dakotas and portions of the Great Lakes has resulted in D0 to D2. Precipitation amounts were less than 50% of normal in many of these areas.

MEXICO: In April there were no major changes in the distribution of drought conditions across Mexico. The period February through April is normally the driest period across mainland Mexico and during these three months the most frequent precipitation value, the mode, is zero. Consequently, droughts do not tend to grow or intensify during this period. In Sonora and Sinaloa extreme drought conditions (D3 to D4) have persisted since the fall and reflect a lack of rainfall in the fall and early winter. Less severe drought conditions extend eastward from Sonora into Chihuahua and Coahuila (D2). Another region of notable drought extends from central Guerrero eastward to the Bay of Campeche. Severe drought conditions are centered in the three-state-area of Guerreo, Oaxaca and Puebla and this drought primarily reflects a lack of late fall and early winter rainfall. The drought in the southeastern states of Veracruz and Tabasco has persisted since the fall, but current drought conditions are not as severe as those observed earlier this year. May is the normal start of the rainy season in southern Mexico and much of this region will enter the planting period under hydrologic drought.